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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,981	11/06/2001	Brian Christopher Ford	1181 US	7661

20346 7590 05/07/2003

BREED AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY, INC
5300 ALLEN K BREED HIGHWAY
P O BOX 33050
LAKELAND, FL 33807-3050

EXAMINER

FLEMING, FAYE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3616

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/992,981

Applicant(s)

FORD ET AL.

Examiner

Faye Fleming

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgments

1. The request filed on April 7, 2003 for a Request for a Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/992,981 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2, 6-9, 12-18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taguchi, et al (5,913,535).

Taguchi, et al teaches an airbag 2 comprising an inflatable cushion 21 made from a first material having an inflator opening, as shown in the figures; a baffle 22 having a second material; a baffle opening 22a, 22b, wherein the opening is aligned with at least one-third of the inflator opening and the opening has an area at least one-half of the area of the inflator opening. The baffle opening is present in the baffle before the airbag is filled with inflation gas from the inflator. The baffle opening is aligned with approximately one-half of the inflator opening. The baffle opening is disposed in the baffle so that a portion of the inflation gas passes through the baffle opening without

Art Unit: 3616

contacting the baffle or the inner bag. The baffle opening is disposed in the baffle so that the baffle has no influence on the deployment trajectory of the airbag. Taguchi, et al discloses an airbag comprising a baffle 22 having two openings 22a of oval and circular shape located in the upper section of the baffle. Baffle opening 22b is located in the upper section of the baffle.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-5, 10, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taguchi, et al (5,913,535) in view of Nelson, et al (6,283,499).

Taguchi, et al discloses the claimed invention except for a heat shield. Nelson, et al teaches a heat shield (See Col. 3, lines 2-5) having an inflator opening (See Col. 5, lines 25-27), also shown in Figure 1. The heat shield is made from a material different from that comprising the inflatable cushion (See Col. 5, lines 47-57). The heat shield is attached to the baffle. The baffle and the heat shield of Nelson, et al is made from a coated woven nylon fabric (See Col. 5, lines 47-51). The heat shield is attached to baffle by using double needle chain stitch 6, the stitching is approximately 10mm from the edge of the heat shield. Based on the teachings of Nelson, et al, it would have been

Art Unit: 3616

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the airbag of Taguchi, et al to include a heat shield to protect the airbag.

Allowable Subject Matter

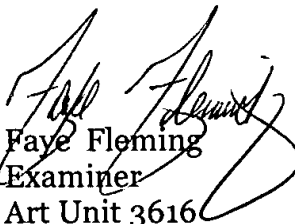
6. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Fleming whose telephone number is (703) 305-0209. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (703) 308-2089. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-2571 for regular communications and (703) 308-2571 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


Faye Fleming
Examiner
Art Unit 3616 04/23/03